

1908.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT  
OF  
NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY  
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AND  
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*Sanitary Inspector for the Borough.*

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Isle of Wight :

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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY  
DISTRICT OF NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT,  
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of the  
Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I present my 12th Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended December 31st, 1908.

*Population and Vital Statistics.*—I have again adhered to the method laid down by the Local Government Board, and base my calculations so far as Population and Vital Statistics are concerned to Midsummer instead of the end of the year, as any alteration before the next census would upset my averages and prevent comparisons. Therefore, taking my estimate of the population at Midsummer, 1907, as 11,697, and as the excess of births over deaths for the year ended Midsummer, 1908, was 157, this would make our total estimated population to be now 11,854, and on this figure I shall as usual base my birth and mortality rates.

The Borough has, in common with the country generally, felt the depression in trade. Business in general has been very quiet throughout the year. Many of the artisan class having left the Borough to seek work elsewhere, has caused a larger number of voids than usual in the smaller houses. This has naturally put a check on building operations, which have practically been at a standstill, as at the present the supply of houses is quite equal to the demand, but several improvements have been made to existing business premises, and some new structures have been added.

*Births.*—The number of births registered during the year was : Males, 143 ; females, 128 ; making a total of 271, giving a birth rate of 22.86 per 1,000. The appended table shows a slight increase on that of last year.

Date.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1899	148	136	284
1900	186	134	270
1901	120	132	252
1902	133	112	245
1903	148	133	281
1904	138	125	263
1905	114	142	256
1906	133	145	278
1907	135	129	264
1908	143	118	271

Though a slight increase on last year, it is about the average of the past ten years.

The births for 1908 were registered as follows :

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1st quarter of the year	40	28	68
2nd        „        „	36	39	75
3rd        „        „	34	36	70
4th        „        „	38	25	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	143	128	271

*Deaths.*—The total number of deaths registered was 118, giving a mortality rate of 9.11 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is a lower death-rate even than that of last year, which was the lowest I had ever recorded for the Borough.

For comparison I append the totals for the past ten years :—

Date.	Total Deaths.
1899        ..        ..	184
1900        ..        ..	145
1901        ..        ..	150
1902        ..        ..	123
1903        ..        ..	141
1904        ..        ..	148
1905        ..        ..	124
1906        ..        ..	132
1907        ..        ..	122
1908        ..        ..	118

I must again congratulate you on the continued low death-rate and the general healthy state of the Borough, and I feel justified in assuming that this is in a large measure due to the time and money expended by your Authority on the improved dwellings for the people, and the general sanitary condition of the Borough, and that further efforts in the same direction will produce good results.

The 118 deaths occurred at the following ages :—

Deaths under	1 year	..	..	..	23 or 1.94	per 1000
„	over	1	„	and under	5 years	.. 7 or 0.59 „
„	„	5	„	„	15	„ .. 7 or 0.59 „
„	„	15	„	„	25	„ .. 5 or 0.42 „
„	„	25	„	„	65	„ .. 32 or 2.69 „
„	„	65 years and upwards	..	..	44 or 3.71	„

In reviewing these deaths, those under 1 year number 23, an increase of 6 on that of last year ; of those 1 year and under 5, an increase of 1 ; of those 5 and under 15, an increase of 5 ; of those 15 and under 25, a decrease of 5 ; of those 25 and under 65, an increase of 4 ; and of those 65 and upwards, a decrease of 15.

Of the 23 deaths under 1 year, 12 were under 1 month, 8 of these 12 being under 1 week and 4 of the 8 lived from only 2 hours to 1 day.

The death-rate of infants under 1 year per 1000 births registered is 84.87.

Of the deaths occurring at 65 and upwards :—

10 died between 65 and 70 years of age.

21 „ 70 and 80 „

11 „ 80 and 90 „

2 „ 90 and upwards, the oldest being 94.

The following table gives the particulars of population, births, and deaths for the past 10 years.

TABLE A.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.			
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 yr. of age		At all ages.	
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Num- ber.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1898	11,014	287	26·05	31	108·01	138	12·52
1899	11,114	284	25·55	40	140·84	184	16·55
1900	11,177	270	24·15	28	103·70	145	12·90
1901	10,938	252	23·03	28	111·11	150	13·71
1902	11,059	245	22·15	22	89·79	123	11·12
1903	11,192	281	25·08	22	78·29	141	12·59
1904	11,301	263	23·27	40	152·09	148	13·09
1905	11,436	256	23·38	16	62·50	124	10·84
1906	11,568	278	24·03	17	61·14	132	11·41
1907	11,697	264	22·56	17	64·39	122	10·43
Averages for years 1898— 1907	11,249	268	23·92	26	97·18	140	12·51
1908	11,854	271	22·86	23	84·87	118	9·11

\* Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division.

Total population at all ages, 10,938	...	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses, 2,400	...	
Average number of persons per house, 4·55	...	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 501.



The following table is compiled by the Registrar-General, and I have added Newport, I.W., for comparison :—

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

### TABLE B.

## VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (1908).

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following rates, compiled and published for the convenience of medical officers of health. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

### ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Annual Birth-rates, Death-rates, and the Death-rates from Principal Epidemic Diseases.*

				Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.			Deaths Under One Year to 1,000 Births.	
				Births.	Deaths.			Principal Epidemic Diseases.
					Crude.	*Cor- rected.		
England and Wales ...	...	26·5	14·7	14·7	1·29	121		
76 Great Towns ...	...	27·0	14·9	15·8	1·59	128		
142 smaller towns ...	...	26·0	14·0	14·7	1·26	124		
England and Wales, less the 218 towns ...	..	26·2	14·7	13·8	0·99	110		
Newport ...	...	22·8		9·1	0·25	84		

\* The corrected death-rates are the rates which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the populations of the several areas been identical with that of England and Wales as enumerated in 1901.

The birth-rates are all higher than for 1907, and the death-rates are lower with the single exception of the death-rate in the smaller towns, which is slightly increased, but the infant mortality is in every case higher.

TABLE C.

The following table gives the infant mortality during the year 1908, with the deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under 1 year of age, the number of legitimate and illegitimate births, etc. :—

Cause of Death.					Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
<i>All Causes :</i>					7	1	1	2	11	4	3				1			1			20
Certified .. .. .					7	1	1	2	11	4	3				1			1			20
Uncertified .. .. .					1				1						1				1		3
<i>Common Infectious Diseases :</i>																					
Small-pox .. .. .																					
Chicken-pox .. .. .																					
Measles .. .. .																					
Scarlet Fever .. .. .																					
Diphtheria : Croup .. .. .																					
Whooping Cough .. .. .																					
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases :</i>																					
Diarrhœa, all forms .. .. .																					
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis .. .. .										2	1										3
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh..																					
<i>Wasting Diseases :</i>																					
Premature Birth .. .. .					2	1	1		4												4
Congenital Defects .. .. .																					
Injury at Birth .. .. .																					
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ..																					
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..					4		2		6	2					1		1				10
<i>Tuberculous Diseases :</i>																					
Tuberculous Meningitis .. .. .																					
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica .. .. .																					
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .																					
<i>Other Causes :</i>																					
Erysipelas .. .. .																					
Syphilis .. .. .																					
Rickets .. .. .																					
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )..																					
Convulsions .. .. .					1				1		2				1						2
Bronchitis .. .. .																					2
Laryngitis .. .. .																					
Pneumonia .. .. .																					
Suffocation, overlying .. .. .																					
Other Causes .. .. .					1														1		2
					8	1	1	2	12	4	3				2			1	1		23

District—Newport, I.W. Population, estimated to middle of 1908—11,854.

Births in the year—Legitimate, 257 ; Illegitimate, 14.

Deaths in the year of—Legitimate Infants, 21 ; Illegitimate Infants, 2.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 118.

*Preventable Diseases.*—The total number of deaths from this cause was 3, two were due to enteric fever and 1 to membranous croup, giving a mortality rate of 0.25 per 1000 of the estimated population. Although a slight increase on that of last year, viz., 0.08, it is nevertheless a remarkably low death-rate. For comparison, I append a table giving an analysis of the deaths from preventable and other diseases for the past 5 years, and the

months in which they occurred ; another table (overleaf), for 1908 only, gives details of deaths from all causes, the ages at which they occurred, and the diseases which caused such deaths.

TABLE D.

MONTH	1904.					1905.					1906.					1907.					1908.							
	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PURPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PURPERAL FEVER	MEM. GROUP	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PURPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PURPERAL FEVER	MEM. GROUP	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL
Jan.			1			17	18			1			14	9							21						14	14
Feb.						17	17						18	10		1					15						12	12
Mar.						6	6						12	12							11						9	9
April			2			15	17						9	9							13						10	10
May						15	15						11	11							10		1				14	14
June						10	10						10	11		1					6						8	8
July						12	12						9	9							6						4	4
Aug.						10	10					1	9	10							1						10	10
Sept.						11	11						15	15							7						8	8
Oct.						9	9						6	6				1			12						13	13
Nov.			1			9	10					1	11	12							9					1	4	4
Dec.			2			11	13						8	8						10							9	10
Totals			6			142	148		1	5		1	128	132		2	1				121	122		2			115	118



TABLE E.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.*

Causes of Death.					Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
					All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1					2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small-pox	...	...	...	...							
Measles	...	...	...	...	3		3				
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...			1				
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1						
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	1			1			
Croup	...	...	...	...							
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...							
Enteric	...	...	...	...					1	1	
Other Continued	...	...	...	...							
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...							
Cholera	...	...	...	...							
Plague	...	...	...	...							
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...							
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	3	3					
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...							
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...							
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	11			1	2	8	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1				1		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	14					9	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9	2				1	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4		1	1		1	1
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...							
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	2					1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...							
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...							
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	4	4					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	1					1	
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	12	1		1		1	9
Accidents	...	...	...	...	3					2	1
Suicides	...	...	...	...	2					1	1
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	45	13	2	3	1	6	20
All Causes	...	...	...	...	118	23	7	7	5	32	44

*Notifiable Diseases.*—Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1889, the following diseases have been notified during the year : Typhoid fever, 17 ; continued fever, 7 ; diphtheria, 34 ; membranous croup, 1 ; scarlet fever, 9 ; and erysipelas, 6.

The following table shows all the cases that have been notified during the past 5 years :—

			1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Typhoid fever	..	..	2	6	5	2	17
Continued fever	..	..	3	3	0	3	7
Diphtheria	..	..	56	21	4	5	34
Scarlet fever	..	..	1	5	3	3	9
Membranous croup	..	..	0	1	1	0	1
Puerperal fever	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	..	..	4	6	3	6	6
Typhus fever	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
Small-pox	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
			—	—	—	—	—
Total	..		66	48	16	19	78
			—	—	—	—	—

I regret that this is the highest number of notifiable diseases during the past 5 years.

The following are the particulars of the cases notified during the year under review :—

*Typhoid Fever.*—There were 17 cases of typhoid fever notified during the year, 2 proving fatal. Several of these cases were directly attributable to the eating of cockles. Through the medium of the Press I warned the public against the eating of such.

*Continued Fever.*—Seven cases of this disease occurred, all being amongst children, 3 were in one family and 2 in another.

*Diphtheria.*—There were 34 cases of this disease notified as against 5 in 1907. Each case was injected with antitoxin, and all successfully yielded to treatment. I consider this a most satisfactory result, and shows the value of antitoxin as a prophylactic against this disease. Before its introduction medical men would enter on the treatment of a case of diphtheria with fear and trembling, as the death-rate from this disease at that time was always very high, but now they have little anxiety knowing they have such a sheet anchor in antitoxin, if only called in soon enough. Three of these cases were in adults and 31 in children. As regards the houses in which the cases occurred, only 5 were found to have sanitary defects. Every precaution was taken, the sick rooms were disinfected, and the disease in each case confined to the house where it originated. I might incidentally mention that I noted that in nearly every house where the disease occurred fowls were kept on the premises, and in too close proximity to the back doors.

*Scarlet Fever.*—There were 9 cases of this disease notified, 3 practically occurring in one family, and 2 in another, the mother taking the disease from her child that she nursed. The remainder were untraceable and all amongst children.

*Influenza.*—There was an epidemic of this disease in the early part of the year, but it was mild in character and no death attributable to it.

*Whooping Cough.*—There was again an outbreak of whooping cough in the early part of the year, but it was not of a severe character, only one death being attributable to this disease.

*Membranous Croup.*—There was one case of this disease in a young child, which was seen by the medical man in the morning, was immediately injected with antitoxin, but the disease was so far advanced that the child succumbed that night.

*Diarrhœa.*—The number of cases of this complaint were more numerous this year than for the past two years, but no death resulted from it.

*Cancer.*—There were 14 deaths recorded to this disease, as against 6 in 1907, 12 in 1906, and 14 in 1905. For the past 10 years the average has been about 12. The death-rate per 1000 of our estimated population is 1.18 as against 0.51 last year.

*Small-pox, Puerperal Fever, and Typhus Fever.*—The Borough has been entirely free from these diseases throughout the year.

*Violent and Accidental Deaths.*—There were 5 deaths recorded from this cause, as against 4 last year. Two were the result of falls. One was killed on the railway. Two suicides, 1 by hanging and 1 by cutting the throat. Inquests were held in each case.

*Visits and Inspection of Premises.*—In previous reports I have remarked on the improved sanitary condition of the houses into which my duties called me. It is with pleasure that I can report that this improvement is still going on. The insanitary bell-trap, which but a few years ago was quite the recognised thing as a drain trap, has now almost disappeared, and has been replaced by the modern shaped stoneware fittings. The pig, with its offensive manure heap and evil-smelling wash-tub, has disappeared from many a back garden. Flushing tanks are in many cases being fixed in the W.C.'s, and that very useful and necessary sanitary arrangement, the inspection pit, is being provided, thus giving a ready and convenient means for flushing and inspecting the drains.



It is satisfactory to note these improvements constantly being carried out, as experience proves that they add to the health and comfort of the people.

*Bakehouses.*—These have been under my supervision, and the bye-laws and regulations have been observed. The Borough is entirely free from underground bakehouses which have many objectionable features, and little can be said in their favour. They are all retail, with perhaps one or two exceptions. Two men are about the average workers in each. The number at the close of 1907 was 23. During the past year, 2 have been closed and 4 opened, thus making the total 25 at the close of 1908.

*Slaughterhouses.*—The Sanitary Inspector has these under his constant and immediate supervision; they are kept well lime-washed, and the drainage in good working order. I have had no unfavourable report from him in reference to them. Each slaughterhouse is provided with an ample and constant supply of water from the town mains.

*Public Sewers.*—No difficulty has arisen with the public sewers during the year. No additions have been made to them, and the Borough Surveyor informs me he has not found it necessary to carry out any repairs. The system of automatic flushing from the high levels is a useful and a wise provision, ensuring as it does the flushing of your trunk sewers with regularity.

*Public Schools.*—The public schools are the same in number as previously reported, namely, five. Three elementary under the control of the Borough Education Authority, one higher grade under the control of the County Education Authority, and the Grammar School under the management of Trustees.

A number of cases of diphtheria have occurred principally among the infant classes, otherwise the health of the children has been good. The drainage and general sanitary arrangements are under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, who reports they are all in good working order.

The private schools are few in number, and call for no special comment. The health of the children has been good, and I have received no complaints.

*Market.*—The cattle market is still held weekly in St. James' Square, and if one may judge from the increasing number of cattle sent there, the question of providing more accommodation will sooner or later have to be faced. The prompt and effectual methods



of cleansing and disinfecting the floor and removing all manure immediately the day's business is concluded reduces any attendant nuisance to a minimum, and demonstrates the wisdom of your decision in providing an impervious floor. It is undoubtedly a difficult matter to hold a cattle market in the public street, however careful your officials may be, without giving cause for some complaint, either real or imaginary, but the care taken by the department having charge of this work removes as far as possible the slight inconvenience which must inevitably occur.

*Isolation Hospital.*—When I wrote my report for last year (1907) I fully anticipated that during the year 1908 this long talked of public institution would have been built, and that I should have the pleasure of congratulating your Authority on being the joint owners of such a building, and the ratepayers on being able to benefit by the successful outcome of the amalgamated Hospital scheme; but, however, the wheels of progress sometimes run slowly, and my expectations have not as yet been realised. The vexed question of site has again for a time barred the way, but seeing that another site which appears to be equally suitable, if not better, has been placed at the Hospital Committee's disposal, I presume matters will soon make a forward move.

My opinion expressed in my last report as to the advantages and benefits to be gained by combining with other Authorities and providing a well-equipped building large enough to meet all needs, is still the same, and, further, that under a combined scheme administration expenses would be curtailed, and would allow a sufficient staff to be kept on duty to meet all emergencies. During the year just closed, several cases have occurred in the Borough, where, if such a hospital had been available, hardships would have been avoided, and the patients would have received that care and attention which it was almost impossible to render in the limited accommodation in some of their homes, and the public health would have been better safeguarded by prompt isolation, and infected areas speedily cleared and made safe. I sincerely hope that by the close of the year 1909 the provision of an Isolation Hospital will be an accomplished fact, and one more achievement added to the sanitary reputation of the Borough.

*Refuse Destructor.*—The question of providing a refuse destructor remains in abeyance. I am still of opinion that a destructor would be a great acquisition. One of the most difficult problems that confront Municipal Authorities is the best method of scavenging the streets and collecting the house refuse and dealing with it after it has been collected. I think it is generally admitted that if the refuse destructor be rather more expensive

than the refuse heap, yet the extra money is well and wisely spent in ensuring the prompt destruction of such an accumulation of offensive matter, which, if allowed to remain and rot, must always be a more or less menace to the public health. I am glad to know that your regulation prohibiting swine from being allowed to feed on the refuse heap has been enforced.

*Public Improvements.*—The purchase and demolition of a number of old properties at Snook's Hill has been one of the finest improvements carried out in the Town for many years. Not only has it been the means of removing a number of insanitary dwellings, but it gives more light and air to the houses that remain, and, more than all, in addition provides a fine open street where was once a dangerous hill and awkward corner, and also makes a good approach to one of the main entrances to the town.

*Sewage Disposal Works.*—These works, which commenced operations in 1896, answer their purpose most satisfactorily. and, although year by year heavier demands are made on its accommodation, yet up to the present the sewage received has been satisfactorily treated. I can again bear testimony that the establishment is kept very clean, and that every care is taken by the manager and his staff to ensure that this most important work is carried out without nuisance. I have received no complaint in reference to them, and there has been no difficulty in disposing of the sludge cake.

*Water Supply.*—I can add nothing further to what I have said in my previous reports on your splendid water supply. Another year's working has proved the existence of an ample supply which the Rural Authority is wisely acquiring for use in their district. The purity is beyond dispute as borne out by the Analyst's report year after year. I append the last made this year. Such a pure and bountiful supply of water is one of the greatest safeguards to the health of a community.

The Clinical Research Association, Limited,  
Watergate House,  
Adelphi,  
London, W.C.

14-3-08.

To M. L. B. Coombs, Esq.

The specimen of water received here on 11-3-08 has been chemically and bacteriologically examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following report thereon :—

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

				Grains per gallon.
Total solids (dried at 120°C)	..	..	..	20.30
Combined Chlorine	..	..	..	2.30
Expressed as Na. Cl.	..	..	..	3.80
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	0.27
Nitrites .. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
Saline Ammonia ..	..	..	..	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	0.001
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	..	..	..	0.006
Total hardness	..	..	..	13°.3
Lead or Copper	..	..	..	Nil.

This is a water of a high degree of organic purity as judged by Chemical Analysis.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

The number of organisms which produce colonies on gelatine plates incubated three days at 20°C is only 13 per cubic centimetre of the water.

No colonies have developed on Agar plates inoculated with 1.7 cubic centimetres of the water and incubated for 2 days at 37°C. The bacillus Coli Communis, the bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes and Streptococci are absent from all the quantities examined, which amounted to totals of 100 c.c. for each of the bacilli and 30 centimetres for the Streptococci.

These results afford evidence of a high degree of bacterial purity.

C. H. WELLS,  
Secretary.



FACTORY ACT.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	2	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	45	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	125	8	Nil.
Total ...	172	8	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.  (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness... ..	6	6		
Want of ventilation... ..	}			
Overcrowding ... ..				
Want of drainage of floors... ..				
Other nuisances ... ..				
Sanitary Accommo- dation { insufficient ... .. { unsuitable or defective { not separate for sexes				
Sec. 22, P.H.A. a.a., 1890, adopted 1891				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Act :—</i>	} Nil.			
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	}			
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other offences ... .. (Excluding offences relating to outworkers, which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ... ..	6	6		





## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.								Number.
(1)								(2)
Railway Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brewery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Harness Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Smiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Coach Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer Bottling Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stone Masons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total								99

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
(1)	(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)...	} Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) ...	
Other...	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) ...	
Certificates granted during the year ...	
In use at the end of the year ...	

It is impossible for me to make an accurate return, as some employers send a list in February and some in March, and others in August and October. Until some prosecution for non-compliance in sending lists twice a year, in February and August, takes place, I shall never be able to make a return as desired by the Home Office. I may here mention that some workers work for 2 and even 3 employers ; in that case I only count them once.

In concluding my report, I again congratulate you on the good sanitary condition of the Borough. A slightly increased birth-rate and a decidedly low death-rate, the lowest I have ever recorded, coupled with a pure and abundant water supply, improved and convenient dwellings, which have been erected of late years, not forgetting the many public improvements which have been recently carried out, amongst which I might mention the tar-paved footpaths in different parts of the town, which are a great boon to pedestrians, All this tends to show that the policy of the Corporation is a forward one, and proves an earnest endeavour on their part to keep the Borough abreast of the times.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MILBOURNE L. B. COOMBS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Newport Urban District.

February 16th, 1909.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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*To the Mayor and Town Council, the Urban Sanitary Authority  
for the Borough of Newport, I.W.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your approval my Fourteenth Annual Report of the work executed under your Authority for the year ended December 31st, 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Seventy-four cases were notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and on receipt of his instructions I visited the premises, examined their Sanitary condition, and tested the drains. Where defects were found, the responsible persons were called on to remedy them. After the patients had recovered, the infected rooms were disinfected with formalin vapour and spray.

In all cases disinfectants were supplied free by your Authority.

A larger number of rooms than hitherto, which have been occupied by persons suffering from cancer, measles tubercular, and other non-notifiable diseases, have been disinfected at the request of medical men.

As I have stated in former reports, the majority of the houses in which these cases occur are so small as to render complete isolation impossible, and, therefore, to render any form of disinfection effectual, it frequently becomes necessary to disinfect two and sometimes three rooms in one house.

With the provision of the long looked for Sanitary Hospital, this difficulty will, to a great extent, be removed.

The total number of rooms disinfected during the year is 74.



## MILKSHOPS AND DAIRIES.

The number of persons registered under the Milkshops and Dairies Act of 1885 as Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk is 11 dairymen and 6 purveyors, being the same number as last year. One dairyman has left the Borough, and one new dairy has been opened.

The cowsheds and milk stores have been frequently visited, and, although these have been surprise visits at various hours of the day, I have always found the milk stores clean, and as regards the cow sheds, beyond an occasional hint as to the necessity for a little extra lime washing, I have had no cause for complaint. The drainage of the cow sheds and yards have received my especial attention, with the result that three have had completely new drainage systems laid down and various improvements made to the buildings. I think you will agree with me that gradual pressure on the proprietors to carry out improvements such as I have just mentioned is the best method of bringing the older premises, which were in existence many years before the Dairies Act was passed, more into line with the newer and up-to-date buildings.

The quantity of milk stored is very small, nearly all being retailed from door to door.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The total number of slaughterhouses in use in the Borough is 17, the same total as last year, and are situated as follows:—

- 10 in Scarrott's Lane.
- 1 in Cockram's Yard.
- 1 in Chain Lane.
- 1 in High Street.
- 1 in Pyle Street.
- 1 in Cross Street.
- 1 in East Street.
- 1 in Carisbrooke Road.

Twelve licenses have been renewed for 1 year; 5 of these are for slaughtering beasts and 7 swine only. Of the remaining 5 which are registered slaughterhouses (having been in existence a number of years previous to the passing of the Act of Parliament requiring the annual renewal of their license), 2 are used for slaughtering beasts, 2 for swine, and one is at present void.

Limewashing, drainage, and general cleansing has been well looked after, and I have had no occasion to report any proprietor for a breach of the Regulations.

## MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.

In only 1 instance has it been necessary to take legal proceedings. This was for a breach of the bye-laws having regard to the keeping of swine. The case was dealt with by the Borough Magistrates and a fine imposed.

## SCHOOLS.

These consist of the public elementary schools, three in number, 1 higher grade, and the Grammar School.

I have paid frequent visits to them during the year, and, although visited at various hours of the day, I have invariably found the urinals and latrines clean, and the drains in good working order.

Some schools are provided with the independent basin latrine, and others with the trough system. I consider the former much cleaner, and less liable to cause a nuisance than the latter, and I advise, whenever alterations are made, to substitute the independent basin in place of the trough.

The private schools are few in number, and the sanitary arrangements, being under the direct control of the principals, are well looked after.

## UNSOUND FOOD.

The fruit and other food supplies have been of good quality, and no complaint has reached me respecting them.

Four consignments of fresh fish were reported to me by the owners. On examination I found they were unfit for food. I advised that they should be destroyed, and my advice was immediately acted upon.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one registered Common Lodging House in the Borough, situated in South Street. This is kept clean and in accordance with the bye-laws.

## SCAVENGING AND COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is still done by contract, and requires constant supervision. Doubtless, this is one of the Sanitary Inspector's most important duties, because it is of a daily recurring nature, and the manner and regularity with which the refuse is collected

and disposed of is a matter of vital importance to the health and reputation of a town or district. The contract system has many drawbacks, and, although I am not prepared to say that the provision of your own horses and men would be less expensive, yet, if these were under my direct control, I could better cope with some of the defects of our scavenging system which now exist.

The terms of the existing contract do not provide for a separate collection of house refuse and road sweepings, and this is often the cause of the unsightly and often offensive receptacles filled with refuse remaining in the streets for a considerable time, while awaiting collection.

The greater or less quantity to be collected varies with the exigencies of the weather and other causes beyond control, making it very difficult for a limited number of carts to be regular on their rounds, as both road sweepings and house refuse have to be collected in the one journey, and the quantity is so varying from day to day. The principal streets are cleared daily in the early morning, and all other parts of the Borough twice weekly.

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I have made numerous surprise visits to workshops and workrooms which come under the provisions of this Act.

There are no large factories in the Borough, the largest being the workshops of the I.W. Central Railway Company, and these, being under the personal supervision of the Chief Engineer, are well looked after.

The tailors' and dressmakers' workrooms are small and need most attention. The latter provide on an average accommodation for not more than 3 workers, and many only employ two.

These are visited from time to time, and care taken that the sanitary accommodation, necessary air space, and ventilation is provided.

The other workshops and premises, such as carpenters', smiths', cabinet makers', carriage builders', and others of a like character, are all provided with sanitary accommodation and ample air space for the number of workers employed.

### DETAILED LIST OF WORKS CARRIED OUT.

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Houses and premises inspected and re-inspected .. ..	343
Preliminary notices served and letters written for the abatement of nuisances .. .. .	59



Statutory notices served to abate nuisances .. ..	18
Written complaints received <i>re</i> nuisances .. ..	6
Complaints <i>re</i> ashes and house refuse .. ..	31
Drains tested with smoke and water tests .. ..	53
Notices not complied with on December 31, 1908 .. ..	2
Old drains condemned .. ..	23
New drains laid .. ..	30
Drains cleaned from obstruction .. ..	64
Leaky drains made sound .. ..	27
Drains disconnected from sewer by syphons .. ..	9
Premises completely re-drained .. ..	8
Cesspools condemned and filled up .. ..	4
New connections of drains with sewers .. ..	9
Inspection chambers built .. ..	29
Drains removed from underneath houses and laid outside ..	2
Brick drains replaced by pipe ditto .. ..	5
Unglazed tile drains replaced by pipe ditto .. ..	5
Drains ventilated by 4in. shafts .. ..	11
Stoneware gully traps fixed .. ..	49
Defective soil pipes made sound .. ..	3
Objectionable syphons removed .. ..	6
Stables drained .. ..	8
Trapped pits provided for stables and yards .. ..	10
Iron "bell" and "D" traps removed .. ..	19
Stoneware sink troughs provided .. ..	4
Dwelling houses provided with improved water supply ..	2
Yard floors made good .. ..	13
Waste pipes from sinks disconnected from drains .. ..	5
Mason's pits replaced by gully traps .. ..	9
New W.C.'s built .. ..	6
"Container" W.C. apparatus condemned and removed ..	9
W.C.'s removed and built on outside walls .. ..	1
W.C.'s provided with flushing tanks .. ..	25
Pedestal W.C.'s fixed .. ..	18
Old hopper W.C. basins replaced .. ..	17
Offensive W.C. basins cleansed .. ..	33
W.C.'s condemned and removed .. ..	3
Earth closets replaced by W.C.'s .. ..	1
Urinals cleansed and lime washed .. ..	12
Soil pipes removed from inside and fixed outside of houses and ventilated .. ..	4
Offensive W.C.'s lime washed and ventilated .. ..	13
Urinals re-constructed and water laid on .. ..	4
New urinals provided .. ..	2
Lavatory waste pipes properly trapped .. ..	2
R.W. spouting provided for dwelling houses .. ..	4



Bath waste pipes disconnected from drains .. .. .	2
New baths fixed .. . . .	6
Manure pits drained .. . . .	2
Offensive R.W. tanks cleaned .. . . .	2
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains .. . . .	21
Ventilating shafts raised higher .. . . .	4
Unwholesome premises lime washed .. . . .	11
Defective R.W. spouting repaired .. . . .	16
Pig stys drained .. . . .	9
Pig stys lime washed .. . . .	18
Accumulation of manure removed .. . . .	8
Nuisances abated from improper keeping of animals .. . . .	7
Offensive accumulations removed .. . . .	6
Galvanised receptacles provided for house refuse .. . . .	7
Cow sheds lime washed .. . . .	7
Leaking roofs repaired .. . . .	3
Ash pits removed altogether .. . . .	4
Lavatory basins fixed .. . . .	1
Ventilation provided under floors .. . . .	6
Yards paved with impervious flooring .. . . .	8
New W.C.'s provided for workshops .. . . .	4
Workshop W.C.'s cleansed .. . . .	4
Workshops and workrooms lime washed .. . . .	2
Rooms cleansed and re-papered after disinfection .. . . .	15
Bakehouses condemned and closed .. . . .	1
Overcrowding nuisances abated .. . . .	1
New workrooms built .. . . .	1

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. WALDEN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

February 15th, 1909.

